



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 279

LCO No. 1251



Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by:
(INS)

***AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
HEARING AIDS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 38a-490b of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of
4 the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section
5 38a-469 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued
6 in this state shall provide coverage for hearing aids for [children
7 twelve years of age or younger] individuals.

8 (b) The Insurance Commissioner shall adopt regulations in
9 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to select a hearing loss
10 standard and establish a graduated scale for deductibles for hearing
11 aids that correspond to the level of hearing loss.

12 (c) Such hearing aids shall be considered durable medical
13 equipment under the policy and the policy may limit the hearing aid

14 benefit to one thousand dollars within a twenty-four-month period.

15 Sec. 2. Section 38a-516b of the general statutes is repealed and the
16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

17 (a) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the
18 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-
19 469 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in
20 this state shall provide coverage for hearing aids for [children twelve
21 years of age or younger] individuals.

22 (b) The Insurance Commissioner shall adopt regulations in
23 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to select a hearing loss
24 standard and establish a graduated scale for deductibles for hearing
25 aids that correspond to the level of hearing loss.

26 (c) Such hearing aids shall be considered durable medical
27 equipment under the policy and the policy may limit the hearing aid
28 benefit to one thousand dollars within a twenty-four-month period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	38a-490b
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	38a-516b

Statement of Purpose:

To expand health insurance coverage for hearing aids.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]